



## International Union for the Study of Social Insects

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Greetings from wet and warm Sydney this time. For us summer break is nearly here, and I sure need it..... But not before updating you on some IUSSI news. Mike Breed's annual report is not quite there yet, so that will have to wait. Mike has had a very busy semester he tells me and I am sure that the journal too has kept him engaged. I will provide you with my financial report, which has been scrutinised, and approved, by the financial subcommittee. As you know, our income depends on the number of articles (or more precisely, pages) published in *Insectes Sociaux*. Thank you for your contributions and may there be many more in 2017. Also a big thank you to our editors, editorial board members and reviewers. And of course to Mike for holding it all together.

Don't forget that the journal also has a social media presence:

Like us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/InsectesSociaux?ref=bookmarks>

Follow the blog

<http://insectessociaux.com/>

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<https://twitter.com/inssociaux>

I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and all the best for 2017. And you may want to check out this website: <http://www.smh.com.au/comment/why-a-hot-christmas-in-australia-beats-a-white-christmas-in-england-20141218-12adsf.html>



## **Section information**

### **Andean and Caribbean section**

The next meeting of the Andean and Caribbean section will be held in 2017 in the city of Tarapoto, in the middle of the Peruvian jungle.

The OGN Urku Estudios Amazónicos entities will be the organizer of the event.

### **Australasian section**

The Australasian section held its 2016 meeting in conjunction with the Australasian Evolution Society meeting, in November in Melbourne. The section also has a new website (still under construction): <http://www.iussiaustralasia.org>

### **Brazilian Section and IUSSI2018**

Keep an eye on the IUSSI2018 web site: <http://www.iussi2018.com>. The organisers are currently working on their final list of plenary speakers. They plan to start sending out invitations early next year.

### **Central European Section**

The Central European Section organized the European IUSSI meeting in Helsinki, which was a great success. The website is still active if you want to check out what you missed: <http://www.iussi2016.com>

### **French Speaking Section**

The French speaking section will hold its biannual meeting (in between European and World meetings) at the National History Museum of Paris in from the 23h to the 25th of August 2017. We will have two invited speakers, Yannick Wurm (Queen Mary University of London) and Doyle Mckey (Center of Functional and Evolutionary Ecology, Montpellier). There will also be a plenary session by the recipient of the early career researcher prize. The website will be launched in January.

### **Indian section**

International Conference on Ants (11th ANeT) is to be organised in India in October-2017, details regarding registration, abstract submission and other relevant information will follow soon.

Ants of India - International Conference on Ants-2017

Here is the link to website-

[http://www.antdiversityindia.com/international\\_conference\\_on\\_ants-2017](http://www.antdiversityindia.com/international_conference_on_ants-2017)

### **North American Section**

The North American Section of the IUSSI held its section meeting in conjunction with the ESA/ICE joint meeting in Orlando, September 2016, which was very enjoyable. It was nice to have a chance to catch up with people before ICE, as ICE was way too big for comfort....

The section is still looking for a treasurer and secretary, but have elected Jay Evans as its next President.

**An exciting new IUSSI initiative: Social Insects Reference Work**

About a year ago Springer, the publisher of *Insectes Sociaux*, raised the question with the IUSSI of a comprehensive reference work on social insects. After taking soundings from the sections, it was plain that there was widespread support for the idea. An ad-hoc committee reached consensus on a preferred form: a one-volume encyclopedia of many short entries, involving specialists from the geographic and topical range of the IUSSI. A proposal based on this consensus is now before Springer. A matter of special concern is the price, as we want the final product to be within the reach of entomologists and ethologists generally, as well as motivated students and amateur naturalists.

The intended editor is Christopher K. Starr of the University of the West Indies. Chris is very mindful that he doesn't know everything, so that when there is an agreement in place with Springer some of you can expect to be asked to serve on a broad-based advisory board.

## Financial report covering the period January 1 – December 16, 2016

The Financial Subcommittee (Joan Herbers, Mark Brown and Heike Feldhaar), in consultation with me, decided to support 2 African students to attend the Ant Course that was held July 28-August 7, 2016, at the Edward O. Wilson Laboratory, in Gorongosa National Park, Mozambique. Without our support no student from Africa would have been able to attend the course held on their own continent. The IUSSI contributed US\$4000,-

There will be no travel grants offered in 2017 as we want to support as many students and young postdocs to attend IUSSI2018. We are still awaiting funds from Springer for review articles.

### 2016 Accounting

	<b>Savings</b>	<b>Checking</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$69,326.95</b>	<b>\$3,258.82</b>	<b>\$72,585.77</b>
INCOME			
Review articles			\$-
Annual income			\$44,491.24
interest			\$51.07
Total			\$44,542.31
EXPENSES			
Best paper award			-\$1,000.00
office			-\$1,102.50
government fees			-\$50.00
Review articles			-\$666.00
Reviews editor			-\$556.00
service charges			-\$120.00
Support Ant course			-\$4,000.00
Total			-\$7,494.50
Ending Balance			\$109,633.58

Respectfully submitted,



Madeleine Beekman, Secretary-General